



CRIM 2015 WAO: Criminological Theory Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Brian Krupp

Office: OA 3021

Meetings: by appointment only

Email: dbkrupp@lakeheadu.ca (do not message me through myCourseLink)

Course location: OA 1022

Course times: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00pm to 5:30pm

Course website: available on myCourseLink

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly (in class and on the course website).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As is implied by the name, you will learn about historical and contemporary theories of criminal behaviour in this course. This will require you to understand the basic elements of a variety of criminological theories, including their causal structure, as well as the hypotheses and predictions that can be derived from them. You will also learn about empirical tests of these theories.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a student in this course, you will learn some of the broad principles of social scientific inquiry—theory development, hypothesis generation, and empirical prediction and testing. You will then learn how to apply them specifically to the study of crime, and to think critically about the place of theory in social science research. In this way, you will develop a deeper appreciation for the criminological enterprise as a whole, and of the diversity and value of theoretical perspectives in particular.

REQUIRED READINGS

Students are responsible for reading the following items, in keeping with the schedule below:

Akers, R. L., Sellers, C. S., & Jennings, W. G. (2017). *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application* (7th Ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Krupp, D. B. (2019). *The biology of crime*. Preprint available on myCourseLink.

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated on the basis of: (1) ten equally weighted in-class exercises, worth 35% in total; (2) ten equally weighted quizzes, worth 35% in total; and (3) one final exam, worth 30%.

The in-class exercises will take place at the beginning of class every Tuesday from January 14, 2020, up to and including March 24, 2020. Note that there is no quiz on February 18, 2020, due to the Fall Break. **The exercises will start at the beginning of class, so please arrive promptly. Additional time will not be given.**

The quizzes will take place at the beginning of class every Thursday from January 16, 2020, up to and including March 26, 2020. Note that there is no quiz on February 20, 2020, due to the Fall Break, and that Quiz 7 will take place on Tuesday, March 10, in addition to Exercise 8. **The quizzes will start at the beginning of class, so please arrive promptly, as additional time will not be given.**

The exercises and quizzes will both be administered online via myCourseLink, so you are expected to **bring a wifi-enabled device** (such as a laptop, tablet, or smartphone) to class. You must also have your **student ID card** with you. The exercises, quizzes, and final exam will be **cumulative**, assessing your knowledge and comprehension of the lectures and assigned readings of the previous weeks.

There will be no “make-up” exercises or quizzes. If you are unable to complete an exercise or quiz for reasons beyond your control, or if you are facing difficulties that put your success in this course at risk, please inform me immediately. Given sufficient notice and appropriate documentation, I may be able to re-weight your final exam—entirely at my discretion.

The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar’s Office during the period of April 6, 2020 to April 19, 2020, with a contingency date of April 20, 2020. **You are strongly advised not to plan any commitments, such as travel or work, during this period of time.** It is your responsibility to check the final exam schedule and arrive at the designated date, time, and location to avoid a grade of zero. There will be no rescheduling of examinations to accommodate travel or extracurricular activities. No one will be allowed to write examinations prior to the scheduled date.

Please note that I reserve the right to adjust final grades up or down, on an individual basis, in light of special circumstances and/or the student’s total performance in the course.

GRADING SCALE

The official Lakehead University grading scale is as follows: A+ = 90-100%, A = 80-89%, B = 70-79%, C = 60-69%, D = 50-59%, E Failed = 40-49%, F Failed = 1-39%, F Academic Dishonesty = 0%.

STUDENT COURTESY

With regard to discussion, both in class and online, students are expected to be respectful, open-minded, and to use good judgement. While we will cover best discussion practices in class, it ought to be clear from the outset that critical comments and questions should strive to be collegial and constructive, at a minimum.

SCHEDULE DELAYS

While we will try to keep to the schedule below, it may be subject to some adjustment. In particular, if the weather forces the campus to close and class to be cancelled, we may move the dates of specific lectures, exercises, and quizzes to compensate.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to know the University Regulations and, in particular, to heed the Student Code of Conduct on Academic Integrity:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/student-life/student-conduct/academic-integrity/node/51239>

Plagiarism and cheating on exercises and tests are serious offenses. Nevertheless, every year I discover acts of academic dishonesty—some committed on purpose and others by accident. The consequences, however, are the same: I *will* report any case of suspected academic dishonesty, as I am obligated to do, and **a grade of zero at a minimum** will be assigned to the work. If, after reading the Student Code of Conduct linked above, you are still unsure whether you may be plagiarizing or committing an act of academic dishonesty, contact me to ask.

COURSE DROP DEADLINE

Please be aware that the deadline to drop this course is **March 6, 2020**.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

If you have a disability that requires accommodations, I strongly encourage you to make use of those accommodations. I am here to assist you, but I need your help in ensuring that you are properly accommodated. More generally, Lakehead University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities. Student Accessibility Services (SAS) coordinates services and facilitates reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Academic accommodations are provided on the basis of documentation of a disability. Additional information is available at the following campus website: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, do not hesitate to ask for help. Come to me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your academic advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus, including:

The Student Success Centre has many programs and support services in place to help you achieve your academic and personal goals while studying at Lakehead University. They provide academic support through tutoring services, career exploration, cooperative opportunities, and leadership development. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre>.

The Lakehead University Library provides access to resources, study rooms, and research support both online (via chat) and in person. More details are available here: <https://library.lakeheadu.ca/>.

Public Computer Labs are available on campus, where you may write and print out your work. For more details, go to: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/helpdesk/computer-labs>.

Student Life and Services offers health and wellness resources both on and off campus, as well as opportunities for involvement in health and wellness activities. More information is available here: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/or>.

The Office of Human Rights and Equity: You have the right to an education that is free from any form of discrimination. A wide variety of resources are available here: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/human-rights-and-equity/resources>.

SCHEDULE

Required readings are identified in **boldface**.

Dates	Activity
January 7	Introduction to Criminological Theory
January 9	Introduction to Criminological Theory
January 14	Deterrence and Rational Choice Theories & Exercise 1 Akers et al. (2017) Chapters 1 and 2
January 16	Deterrence and Rational Choice Theories & Quiz 1
January 21	Biological Theories & Exercise 2 Krupp (2019)
January 23	Biological Theories & Quiz 2
January 28	Psychological Theories & Exercise 3 Akers et al. (2017) Chapter 4
January 30	Psychological Theories & Quiz 3
February 4	Social Learning Theory & Exercise 4 Akers et al. (2017) Chapter 5
February 6	Social Learning Theory & Quiz 4
February 11	Social Bonding and Control Theories & Exercise 5 Akers et al. (2017) Chapter 6
February 13	Social Bonding and Control Theories & Quiz 5

February 18	Fall Break: no class, exercise, or quiz
February 20	Fall Break: no class, exercise, or quiz
February 25	Labeling and Reintegrative Shaming Theory & Exercise 6 Akers et al. (2017) Chapter 7
February 27	Labeling and Reintegrative Shaming Theory & Quiz 6
March 3	Social Disorganization Theory & Exercise 7 Akers et al. (2017) Chapter 8
March 5	No class, exercise, or quiz
March 10	Anomie and Strain Theories, Quiz 7, & Exercise 8 Akers et al. (2017) Chapter 9
March 12	Anomie and Strain Theories & Quiz 8
March 17	Conflict Theory & Exercise 9 Akers et al. (2017) Chapter 10
March 19	Conflict Theory & Quiz 9
March 24	Developmental and Life-Course Theories & Exercise 10 Akers et al. (2017) Chapter 14
March 26	Developmental and Life-Course Theories & Quiz 10
March 31	Integrating Criminological Theories Akers et al. (2017) Chapter 15
April 2	Course review